DOE This Month

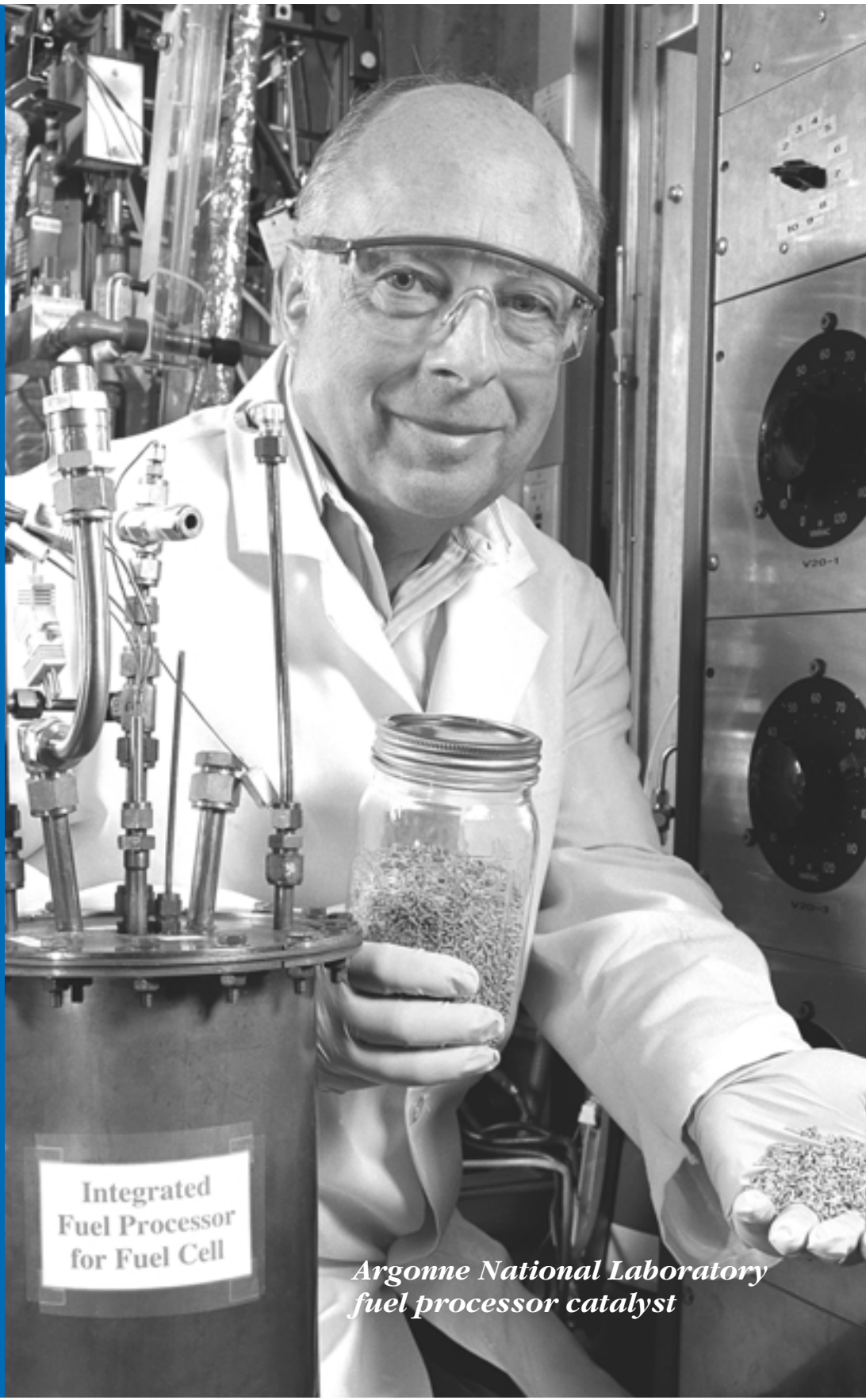
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JANUARY 2001

Framework set for nuclear workers compensation

Hanford Site begins moving spent fuel to storage

Savannah River Site celebrates 50 years



Argonne National Laboratory fuel processor catalyst

DOE This Month

U.S. Department of Energy

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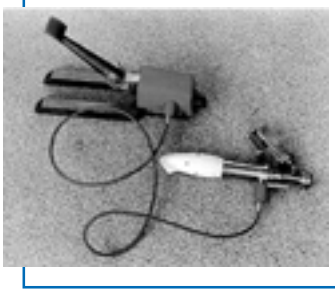
Inside



On our cover

Michael Krumpelt of the Chemical Technology Division at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory displays the new catalyst he and his colleagues developed for use in the fuel processor of an automotive fuel cell system. The catalyst efficiently converts a wide variety of hydrocarbon fuels—including methanol, natural gas, and gasoline—into a hydrogen-rich gas. It could help bring ultra-efficient, environmentally friendly electric cars to the marketplace.

For more on the catalyst, see page 3.

Implementation of nuclear workers compensation program moves forward

On Jan. 11, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman jointly transmitted to Congress proposed amendments to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-398), which was enacted in October 2000. The Act provides for compensating thousands of current and former workers in nuclear-weapons-related activities, or their survivors, who have disabling or fatal occupational illnesses from exposure to the unique hazards associated with building the nation's nuclear defense.

"For many years, the government promoted a legacy of neglect toward these workers who helped build the strongest national security in the world," said Secretary Richardson. "The legislative changes we are proposing today are an opportunity to build upon our commitment to do what is right for our employees and for this nation by showing we have listened to what our workers want—more choices in benefits and more fairness in adjudicating claims."

Presidential Executive Order 13179, issued Dec. 7, 2000, began implementation of the Act and assigned responsibilities for the program among three Federal agencies—the Departments of Energy, Labor, and Health and Human Services.

The Department of Labor has primary responsibility for administering the compensation and medical benefits program, including determining eligibility requirements and adjudicating claims. Under the proposed amendments, a covered worker will be provided a choice of compensation—either a lump sum payment of $150,000, as provided under current law, or compensation for lost wages, provided by the new legislation. Both the new legislation and current law provide for payment of medical expenses.

The proposed amendments also make changes necessary to administer the compensation program effectively. These changes include clarifying agency responsibilities, providing appropriate review of eligibility and other determinations, and establishing an appeals process for workers who may disagree with findings on their claims.

The Department of Health and Human Services will develop guidelines for the Department of Labor to determine whether a cancer is likely to be related to a worker's occupational exposure to radiation, establish methods to estimate worker radiation exposure, and develop estimates for compensation applicants. A Presidential Advisory Board currently is being selected to oversee this work.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has compiled an initial list of facilities to be covered under the legislation, including beryllium vendors, DOE sites with radiation work, and facilities where atomic weapons workers may have been employed. The list names 317 sites in 37 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the Marshall Islands. The list will be published in the *Federal Register*.

The proposed legislation, preliminary facility list, and information on the compensation program are available at **http://www.eh.doe.gov/benefits**. Workers with compensation program questions may call toll-free 1-877-447-9756. ❖

Argonne licenses new fuel cell technology

The Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory and Süd-Chemie Inc. (formerly United Catalysts Inc.) have signed a licensing agreement under which the company will manufacture and distribute a partial oxidation catalyst developed and patented by Argonne. The catalyst forms the heart of a component that will allow fuel-cell-powered cars to run on conventional fuel.

An Argonne team, led by Michael Krumpelt and Shabbir Ahmed of the laboratory's Chemical Technology Division, developed the catalyst for use in the fuel processor of an automotive fuel cell system. It efficiently converts a wide variety of hydrocarbon fuels—including methanol, natural gas, and gasoline—into a hydrogen-rich gas. In addition, the catalyst has demonstrated excellent resistance to sulfur in the fuel, a property essential for reliable, long-term operation of the processor.

The new catalyst is a result of long-term research in the Chemical Technology Division. In the late 1980s, the division began exploring the catalytic conversion, or reforming, of liquid fuel to hydrogen inside a fuel cell system. This work was judged too risky by industry because of the challenge of finding the right catalyst. The division team eventually uncovered a class of new materials that support the partial oxidation chemistry for gasoline and other liquid fuels. Partial oxidation is the primary reaction by which the hydrocarbon fuel is converted into hydrogen.

By mid 1999, the division team developed an engineering-scale processor with this catalytic material that produces hydrogen from commercial gasoline and natural gas. This device produces about one-fifth the amount of hydrogen needed for a conventional car—a major step towards the realization of commercially available, fuel-cell-powered automobiles. The partial oxidation catalyst also makes use of the fuel processor more attractive for other fuel cell applications, such as power for residential buildings and remote locations.

The catalyst invented by the Argonne researchers was made possible by support from the Department's Office of Advanced Automotive Technologies program to overcome the technical barriers to fuel-cell-powered vehicles. ❖

Datz, Drell, York win Fermi Awards

On Dec. 18, 2000, Drs. Sheldon Datz, Sidney Drell, and Herbert York were presented the presidential Enrico Fermi Award in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award, named in honor of distinguished physicist Enrico Fermi, is the Federal Government's oldest science and technology award given for a lifetime of achievement in the field of nuclear energy. The Department of Energy administers the Fermi Award for the White House. Each winner received a gold medal and a $66,000 honorarium.

Dr. Sheldon Datz, 73, a physicist and senior corporate fellow at the Department's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), received the award for his pioneering research in atomic and chemical physics. Dr. Datz began his career in 1951 as a research chemist at ORNL. The unifying feature of his 50-year scientific career lies in the dynamics of atomic and molecular collision processes, the first of which was in his use of crossed molecular beams to study the dynamics of chemical reactions in atom-molecule collisions. This work was the foundation for the present field of chemical dynamics. Later, his interests shifted to the physics of atomic and molecular collisions in gases and solids.

Dr. Sidney Drell, 74, a physicist and professor emeritus at the Department's Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), Stanford University, was honored for his contributions to arms control, national security, and particle physics. A faculty member at Stanford University since 1956, Dr. Drell retired as Deputy Director of SLAC in 1998 and is now with the Hoover Institution at Stanford. He has been an advisor to the Federal Government on national security and defense technical issues and is a founding member of the scientific advisors group known as JASON. As a high-energy physicist, he has carried out important theoretical work in quantum electrodynamics and helped guide long-range planning of national accelerator laboratories.

Dr. Herbert York, 78, is a nuclear physicist and emeritus director of the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, which he founded in 1983. Dr. York received the award for his efforts for nuclear deterrence and arms control agreements. He was the first director of the Department's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Dr. York was science advisor to President Eisenhower and cofounder and first chief scientist of the Advanced Research Projects Agency. He was ambassador and chief negotiator for the Comprehensive Test Ban Negotiations under President Carter. Dr. York has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce international tensions through deterrence and negotiated arms control agreements. ❖

Major contracts awarded for field facilities

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced the selection of major contractors to manage and operate several of its facilities.

A five-year, $500 million contract was awarded to Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC for the management and operation of the Department's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, N.M. Key features of the contract include a five-year base period of performance with an option for an additional five years and a requirement to retain the current workforce at comparable pay and benefits. After a brief transition period, the new contractor will assume responsibility for operations on Feb. 1, 2001.

The contract for Fluor Hanford, Inc., as the prime management contractor of the Department's Hanford Site in southeastern Washington, was extended for six years following performance evaluations and a determination that an extension is in the best interest of the American taxpayer. The value of the contract is $3.8 billion.

Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC was selected to manage the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Program, which includes the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project in Las Vegas, Nev., and the Waste Acceptance, Storage and Transportation Project at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The $3.1 billion, five-year contract takes effect on Feb. 12, 2001, with options for up to an additional five years.

The contract for final cleanup of the Fernald Environmental Management Project near Cincinnati, Ohio, has been awarded to Fluor Fernald. The new closure contract is a cost-plus-incentive fee arrangement which provides significant financial incentives to Fluor Fernald to complete work at the site ahead of schedule and below the baseline cost. The new contract took effect on Dec. 1, 2000, and runs through completion of the site cleanup. The contract target cost is $2.4 billion with a target fee of $120 million.

Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies, LLC was awarded a $1.8 billion, five-year contract to manage the Kansas City Plant. Honeywell and its predecessor companies have operated the facility since it opened in 1949. The new contract took effect on Jan. 1, 2001. The Kansas City Plant supports the National Nuclear Security Administration's stockpile stewardship program.

The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in New Jersey will continue to be operated by Princeton University following a five-year extension of the current contract through September 2006. The laboratory is a collaborative national center for plasma and fusion science. ❖

Hanford begins moving spent nuclear fuel

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford Site in Washington State has successfully completed the first-ever shipment, processing, and storage of Hanford spent nuclear fuel from the K Reactor Basins—two water-filled and leak-prone pools located about 400 yards from the Columbia River. This achievement is a significant milestone in Hanford's mission of moving wastes and special nuclear materials away from the river.

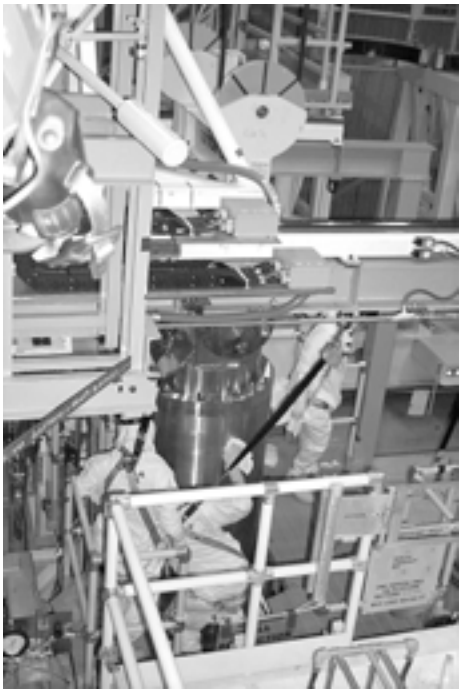
"The K Basins contain more than 55 million curies of radioactivity and pose a threat to the environment second only to Hanford's high-level waste tanks," said Keith A. Klein, Manager, DOE Richland Operations Office. "When we complete the entire project in 2007, we will have removed more than 99 percent of the radioactivity from the Columbia River Corridor—eliminating the K Basins threat to the river and the surrounding environment."

On Dec. 7, 2000, using two underwater robotic arms, workers retrieved, cleaned, and inspected nearly 300 fuel elements from the K West Basin. The fuel was loaded into six custom baskets and placed into a multi-canister overpack (MCO) while still underwater. The overpack was placed on a special transporter for the approximately 400-yard trip to the newly constructed Cold Vacuum Drying Facility (CVDF). Once inside the facility, the MCO was surveyed, heated, drained, vacuum-dried, and back-filled with helium. From beginning to end, the process at the drying facility took roughly six days.

On Dec. 18, a cask containing the vacuum-dried multi-canister overpack was transported about nine miles to the new Canister Storage Building in the center of the Hanford Site and placed in a receiving pit for venting. The next day, the MCO was transferred from the transport cask into one of 220 forty-foot-long, carbon steel tubes inside an underground concrete vault beneath the steel building. While the fuel rests in the tube, it will remain inside the multi-canister overpack. Placing the MCO in its storage tube is the third and final step of the entire spent fuel process.

Storing the spent fuel at the Canister Storage Building does not require surface maintenance, and the fuel is passively cooled by natural circulation of cool air. The building was designed to provide safe storage and surveillance of the fuel for up to 40 years or until a national geological repository is available.

About 2,300 tons of fuel—nearly 80 percent of the Department's nationwide inventory—are scheduled to be removed from the two K Basins by 2004 under a Tri-Party Agreement among DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Washington Department of Ecology. All radioactive sludge, debris, and approximately 2.5 million gallons of basin water are to be removed by 2007. At that time the basins will be turned over to the Environmental Restoration project for disposition. ❖



Workers prepare the multi-canister overpack in the K West Basin for transport.

Brookhaven Lab expands imaging center

A state-of-the-art imaging center is undergoing expansion at the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). The Brookhaven Center for Imaging and Neurosciences will nearly double in size to 4,821 square feet, providing additional space for new research laboratories and patient-preparation areas.

The center is dedicated to conducting basic research on normal brain function, aging, and neurological disorders, focusing on addiction. Researchers at the center also develop technology for two imaging methods for studies in these areas—positron emission tomography (PET) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Two new PET scanners are part of the expansion effort. A large scanner will help broaden human PET studies of addiction and its treatments as well as aging. It also will enable scientists to explore new research directions, including cancer imaging. A smaller PET scanner will be used to perform genetic studies and drug research.

"Brookhaven's researchers and their collaborators have made important contributions to the understanding of addiction, aging, and neuropsychiatric diseases with the aid of these imaging facilities," said Nora Volkow, Brookhaven's Associate Laboratory Director for Life Sciences. "With these expanded facilities, we plan to continue our research in these areas...and initiate new research, including studies of AIDS and cancer."

The $4 million expansion, scheduled for completion this month, is funded by the Department's Office of Biological and Environmental Research, BNL, and the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse. ❖

Department salutes performance excellence

Four Department of Energy (DOE) organizations are the recipients of the Sixth Annual Secretary of Energy Performance Excellence Awards. The awards were presented by Under Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz on Dec. 20, 2000, at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"The work of these teams is an inspiration to all of us at the Department," said Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson. "If we want an agency that is a model of excellence, then we need to apply every day what has made these winners so exceptional—their innovation, hard work, and dedication to improving government service."

The Energy Performance Excellence Awards are modeled after the President's Quality Award and Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria. The awards, open to all Federal and performance-based contractor organizations in DOE, are designed to help transform the Department into an efficient and customer-focused agency. There are five levels of achievement—Excellence, Achievement, Accomplishment, Champion, and Commendation Recognition.

In earning the Excellence Award, **Wackenhut Services, Inc., Savannah River Site** becomes the first and only DOE organization to receive top honors in the awards process. Wackenhut has provided paramilitary security and law enforcement services at Savannah River since 1983. Among numerous accomplishments, Wackenhut was recognized for achieving $12.5 million in cost reductions and recovering $850,000 in government property.

Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division received an Achievement Award in recognition of its transuranic waste repository services for the Department. Its accomplishments include increasing outreach to the public, providing a website information center that receives nearly 1,500 inquiries per week, and reducing or avoiding expected costs totaling $8 million.

A Champion Award was presented to the **DOE Office of Hearings and Appeals** (OHA) for resolving disputes and other concerns involving DOE rules, regulations and policies. As of March 2000, OHA decisions resulted in refunds of $4.74 billion to farmers, businesses, school districts, and state and local governments for oil overcharges.

The **Supplier Quality Information Group** is a virtual DOE organization with no physical headquarters or plant. The group received Commendation Recognition for developing a strategy to assist DOE and contractor purchasers in minimizing duplicate supplier evaluations, including a database and standardized check sheets. ❖

Oak Ridge plans powerful new microscope

One of the most powerful microscopes in the world is planned for future use at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The microscope will have the ability to provide images at a resolution of better than a single atomic diameter.

ORNL and the Japan Electron Optics Laboratory recently signed an agreement to construct the new $3 million ultra-high resolution research electron microscope called the Aberration-Corrected Electron Microscope (ACEM). The Department is providing funding for the effort.

The microscope, which will be located at ORNL's High Temperature Materials Laboratory, features a set of electron lenses that can correct distortions that occur in electromagnetic lenses. It will take advantage of the remote operation technology pioneered by ORNL's Materials Analysis User Center. This technology allows researchers to analyze material samples transmitted through a desktop computer halfway across the world. Using the ACEM, researchers will be able to achieve direct image resolution approaching 0.7 angstroms. The microscope is projected to be operational by 2003.

"This facility and its extraordinary resolution will contribute to the characterization and ultimate optimization of such fine scale structures and functional components," said Sid Diamond, program manager, DOE Office of Heavy Vehicle Technologies, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Participating in the signing ceremony are (l-r) Arvid Pasto, Director, ORNL High Temperature Materials Laboratory (HTML); Sid Diamond; Mike Kersber, Japan Electron Optics Laboratory; Lee Riedinger, ORNL Deputy Director, Science and Technology; Billie Russell, HTML; and Mary Rawlins, DOE Oak Ridge Operations Office. ❖

Savannah River Site celebrates 50 years

On Nov. 28, 1950, President Harry S. Truman announced that the Savannah River Plant would be built. The historic announcement followed DuPont's acceptance of President Truman's request to design, construct, and operate a facility to produce nuclear weapons materials for the Nation's defense effort.

Work on the plant began in January 1951. It became one of the largest construction projects in United States history. Communities were moved, the construction workforce topped 38,000 at its peak, and local populations and businesses boomed—forever changing the face of the Central Savannah River Area.

Fifty years later, on Nov. 28, 2000, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) marked its beginnings with a community-wide celebration. South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges, Georgia Governor Roy Barnes, and DOE Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration General John Gordon joined SRS employees in the festivities.

Greg Rudy, Manager, Savannah River Operations Office (left), greets Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson at the community celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Savannah River Site.

South Carolina Congressman Lindsey Graham, DOE Savannah River Manager Greg Rudy, site employees, and former residents dedicated a granite marker. The marker pays tribute to the original families who lived on plant property in 1950 and to the patriotic men and women who have made possible the Site's safe operations and successful missions. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson joined in the family-oriented community celebration and fireworks display at the historic Riverwalk in Augusta, Ga.

The community-wide observance was one of several events in a year-long anniversary celebration hosted by SRS officials in partnership with a broad-based citizens committee. Other events included tours for employees' family members and the general public, a reunion for former residents of relocated communities, and a technical symposium on significant achievements. ❖

Grinding grains leads to Ukrainian partnership

The Department of Energy's Kansas City Plant is facilitating a new partnership between Ukrainian scientists and engineers and an American-based company, Pinnacle Technology, in the area of biomass grinding, which will be used in plastics to make a stronger and less expensive product. The Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) between the Kansas City Plant and Pinnacle Technology will provide data and hardware to help U.S. companies meet the goal of a 1999 Presidential Executive Order promoting the use of bioproducts and bioenergy by reusing agriculture waste byproducts such as sunflower seed husks or wheat straw.

Texmet in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, the other partner in the cooperative work, is a spinoff company of researchers that once were responsible for the production of many of the delivery systems used for Soviet weapons of mass destruction. Today, Texmet employs personnel that have manufactured commercial space launch systems for delivery of communications satellites to Earth orbit. The Texmet scientists have vast experience in particulate reduction used in the manufacturing processes for propellants and insulating materials.

"With input from Pinnacle Technology, Texmet will design and build a pilot machine that can demonstrate its unique biomass grinding technology," said Tom Hand, Kansas City Plant senior engineer and lead technical contact for the project. "Pinnacle is dedicated to identifying uses for biomass, while the Kansas City Plant will provide personnel having experience with fine particle analysis."

The CRADA also supports the Department's Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention (IPP) program. "IPP achieves nonproliferation objectives by engaging Former Soviet Union scientists, engineers, and technicians—primarily from Russia, the Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan—to develop commercially viable non weapons projects," says Jack Quint, Kansas City Plant manager and coordinator of nonproliferation programs. "This redirection of activities toward peaceful applications leads to commercial benefits for those countries and the United States." ❖

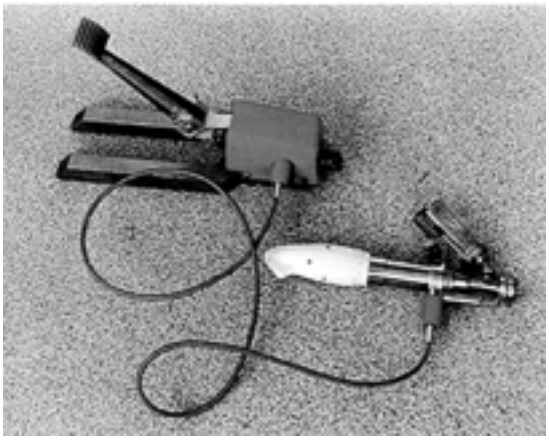
West Valley brings humor to serious initiatives

The Department of Energy's (DOE) West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) in New York recently concluded the second year of its employee competition "Planet Earth Jeopardy." The idea of a diverse group of volunteer employees who appreciate both humor and the environment, the event provides an opportunity to reinforce site-wide initiatives of waste minimization and pollution prevention throughout the year.

Going "straight to the top" with contestants from the site's top positions in DOE, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and the project's prime contractor West Valley Nuclear Services Co. (WVNS), the site's Pollution Prevention Team ensured a capacity cheering section for the lunchtime event.

In the most recent round, the well-prepared DOE-WVDP Director Alice Williams bested Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA (left), and Bob Campbell, WVNS. Planning is now in progress for the Tournament of Champions and the third year of Planet Earth Jeopardy. ❖

Research could remove key immunization barrier



A team of Russian bioengineers and Felton Medical, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., have signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the Department of Energy's Kansas City Plant to develop innovative needle-free inoculation technology that could remove one of the key barriers to immunizing children in Third World countries. The Kansas City Plant will facilitate this partnership through the Department's Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention program which enlists the assistance of U.S. companies to create non-military missions for weapons scientists and technicians from the Former Soviet Union.

The needle-free technology was developed by the Chemical Automatics Design Bureau, a Russian rocket-engine laboratory. The devices use high-speed propulsion to administer medications and includes a protective barrier that prevents the transfer of pathogens. Several models have been developed, including the Bi3M needle-free injector, seen at left. The CRADA partners will further refine devices that can safely inoculate up to 600 children per hour. ❖

Defense Waste Processing Facility pours 1,000th canister

The Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site has poured its 1,000th canister of waste since operations began in 1996 to safely stabilize high-level liquid radioactive waste in a durable glass form. DWPF has produced nearly four million pounds of glassified waste and processed one-sixth of the canisters projected to be poured during the life of the facility.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment that reflects our employees' hard work," said Bill Poulson, Vice President and General Manager of the site's High Level Waste Division. "I am proud of them and their commitment to safety."

About 34 million gallons of high-level liquid wastes are now stored in 49 underground carbon-steel tanks at the Savannah River Site. Currently, DWPF is processing the highly radioactive sludge portion of the waste in the tanks. It is expected to take 20 to 25 years to turn the entire site inventory of high-level waste into glass. ❖

Department, Japan sign fuel cell implementation plan

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Japanese Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) recently signed a 2001 Fuel Cell Implementation Plan. The plan lays the foundation for the U.S. and Japan to work cooperatively to identify key fuel cell technology needs, identify areas where research can be conducted jointly or independently, conduct the research, and share the results annually. The representatives also exchanged information about current fuel cell programs and discussed technology status and advancements.

In the photo (l-r) are Marvin Singer, Senior Advisor and Director, Advanced Research, DOE Fossil Energy; Diane Hooie, Senior Advisor, Strategic Center for Natural Gas, DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory; Toshiaki Abe, Director for Development Program, New Sunshine Program Promotion Headquarters, AIST-MITI; and Yoshinori Miyazaki, Head of Fuel Cell Section, Osaka National Research Laboratory, AIST-MITI. ❖

Idaho Lab applies lessons learned from fires

Learning a lesson from this past summer's blazing fire season, the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) has added new equipment to its arsenal to combat future range fires. Seven "water cannons" were purchased and one demonstrated (at right) for Idaho Falls news media after the fire season ended.

The equipment can be placed at the perimeter of a facility being threatened by a wildfire. Operating off fire hydrants, the cannons can shoot up to 200 gallons of water per minute and send it out 150 to 200 feet to establish a wide, wet protection zone around a facility.

The water cannons are an example of learning from the past and applying existing technology to fight the inevitable range fires that plague INEEL in the summer. ❖

Westinghouse Savannah River earns STAR status

On Dec. 7, 2000, Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, (in photo, third from right) presented STAR recognition to Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC), contractor for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site. STAR status is the highest safety performance and program honor, recognizing significant achievements in DOE's Voluntary Protection Program. WSRC is the single largest employer in the Department complex to achieve this recognition.

The Voluntary Protection Program promotes safety and health excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management, and government at DOE sites. The program consists of three categories—STAR, MERIT, and DEMONSTRATION. Contractors that meet the requirements for outstanding performance receive STAR recognition, the highest achievement level. Additional information on the program is available at **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/vpp**. ❖

Education NOTES

The Department of Energy's **Los Alamos National Laboratory** (LANL) delivered computers and software to two Navajo Nation grade schools to aid in educating children about water issues vital to their future. LANL's Geoanalysis Group, with assistance from several other laboratory offices, collected, configured, and networked computers and printers and obtained software to model water resources and movement. The computers were set up in two computer pods at Naschitti Elementary School and Thoreau Middle School. Each school received five computers, PCs or Macs, and a printer. The computers are Internet-ready and loaded with software, including special Science Seekers software for studying water issues important to the Navajo Nation. The donation was made possible through LANL's Education Equipment Gift Program.

Twenty-six universities have been selected to receive more than $150,000 each to conduct energy efficiency assessments of manufacturing plants. The universities' participation will be coordinated through the Department of Energy's Industrial Assessment Centers program that provides hands-on experience in energy waste and productivity management for engineering students and no-cost industrial assessments to small and medium-sized manufacturers to stimulate improvements in energy waste and productivity management. The universities are: Arizona State; Bradley; Colorado State; Georgia Institute of Technology; Iowa State; Lehigh; Loyola Marymount; Mississippi State; North Carolina State; Oklahoma State; Oregon State; San Diego State; San Francisco State; Syracuse; Texas A&M; Universities of Dayton (Ohio), Florida, Illinois-Chicago, Louisiana-Lafayette, Massachusetts, Michigan, Miami, Texas at Arlington, Utah, and Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and West Virginia.

Students from John P. Freeman School, Memphis, Tenn., work on preparing their Lego robot for competition in the First Lego League Tennessee State Tournament held Dec. 2, 2000, at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. More than 300 students from 30 elementary and middle schools in Tennessee and Alabama participated in the competition. The tournament involved students ages 9-14 working as a team to build a small programmable robot with Lego blocks that must complete a set of tasks through an obstacle course on a table. Teams were graded on their preparations and the ability of their small machines to negotiate the course. The tournament was cosponsored by Oak Ridge National Laboratory contractor UT-Battelle, the American Museum of Science and Energy, and Tennessee Tech.

Wayne Tallman, Caitlin Feeney, and Mari Cannon were among several people from Oasis, a private school in Richland, Wash., who volunteered to help plant sagebrush at the Horn Rapids Park along the Yakima River. Nearly 175 community volunteers, substantially more than expected, worked in December 2000 to replant sagebrush burned in last summer's Hanford wildfire. Department of Energy contractor (DOE) Bechtel Hanford, Inc., donated the sagebrush for replanting in about 100 acres of county park land. Bechtel, DOE Richland Operations Office, Benton County, and the Tapteal Greenway Association sponsored the community effort.

Researchers cook up ultrasound recipe

Researchers at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) have developed a way to apply ultrasonic measurement techniques into useful tools for the food processing industry. The techniques were originally designed to assist DOE at its Hanford Site in the transport and processing of nuclear waste and also were applied to identify and track the movement of weapons of mass destruction.

This required PNNL to develop technology capable of identifying contraband in everything from orange juice to cooking oils, eventually leading to a technology of use to the food processing industry. Now, researchers are putting the ultrasound to work through the first non-invasive method available to determine when a product is uniformly consistent in its composition.

PNNL is working with several large food processing and consumer product corporations on improving many products, including potatoes, tomato paste, pudding, bread and cookie dough, cooking oils, sauces, cake mix, beef, chicken, corn, paper, and industrial polymers. "U.S. food processors sell into a very competitive marketplace and they constantly must provide products that meet customer requirements," said Dennis Stiles, manager of PNNL's Agriculture and Food Processing Technology Initiative.

Ultrasonic sensor capabilities at PNNL have been consolidated into the Food Science and Process Measurement Laboratory to address process control problems for the food processing and other industries.

The PNNL Food Science and Process Measurement Laboratory is equipped with an industrial-sized mixer, oven, steam kettle, process flow loops, and other standard food processing equipment, all of which are instrumented with ultrasonic sensors used to monitor the physical properties of the materials during pumping. The activity mimics the material transport operations that take place during the manufacturing of foodstuffs, chemicals, and other consumer products. Monitoring can occur non-invasively by placing sensors on the outside of the vessels and piping in a product being mixed or transported. For products flowing through a pipe, PNNL has developed a viscosity meter based on ultrasonic Doppler measurements.

In addition to food-specific products, PNNL researchers are looking at other consumer items and chemical products, such as shampoo. Use of ultrasonic sensors, for example, may reduce the required mixing time on a shampoo or other product, cutting costs and increasing profit. ❖

COMING Events

February

19-22 4th Industrial Energy Efficiency Symposium and Exposition, Washington, D.C. The biennial conference is cosponsored by the Department of Energy's Office of Industrial Technologies in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in partnership with several leading U.S. manufacturing and materials companies. Nationally recognized experts will share their perspectives on the competitive challenges and opportunities facing U.S. manufacturers and energy-intensive basic industries. For registration and more information, call toll free 877-648-7967 or visit **http://www.oitexpo4.com**.

March

27 9th National Energy Modeling System/Annual Energy Outlook Conference, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA). The conference includes speakers and attendees from Federal and State governments, private industry, and trade associations discussing energy issues particularly related to EIA's *Annual Energy Outlook 2001* and the National Energy Modeling System. Session topics include greenhouse gas challenges, electricity competition, distributed generation, advanced light-duty vehicle technology and diffusion, transportation fuels, natural gas in 2015 and beyond, and forecasting international oil demand and supply. Conference registration is free, but space is limited. For information, contact Susan H. Holte, EIA, 202-586-4838, susan.holte@eia.doe.gov, or Peggy Wells, EIA, 202-586-0109, peggy.wells@eia.doe.gov. Or visit the conference web site at **http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/conf/**.

May

6-9 23rd Annual Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals, Breckenridge, Colo. Hosted by the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). This international conference has over years become the principal forum for researchers to learn about the latest biotechnology research and development for making fuels and chemicals from biomass. For information, contact Liz Willson, NREL, 303-384-7750, liz_willson@nrel.gov, or visit **http://www.nrel.gov/biotech_symposium/**. ❖

NEW Publications

Office of Inspector General reports: ***Inspection of Selected Aspects of the Department of Energy's Classified Document Transmittal Process*** (DOE/IG-0488); ***Audit Report, Americium/Curium Vitrification Project at the Savannah River Site*** (DOE/IG-0489); ***Audit Report, Containers Suitable for Shipping Fissile Material*** (DOE/IG-0490); ***Special Report, Management Challenges at the Department of Energy*** (DOE/IG-0491). Available from the U.S. Department of Energy, IG Reports Request Line, 202-586-2744; or at **http://www.ig.doe.gov/**.

Energy Information Administration report: ***Annual Energy Outlook 2001*** (DOE/EIA-0383-2001) presents midterm forecasts of energy supply, demand, and prices through 2020. The EIA projects that, with a growing economy, U.S. energy demand will increase 32 percent from 1999 to 2020, reaching 127 quadrillion Btu, assuming no changes in Federal laws and regulations. Available on the Internet at **http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/**. Additional information is available from the National Energy Information Center, 202-586-8800. ❖

One man's trash, another man's tinder

Scrap wood from construction projects at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) is being recycled and used as a fuel source by Basic American Foods in Rexburg, Idaho. The excess wood comes from all areas of the laboratory, including wooden doors and lumber from old buildings, shipping boxes, and wood scraps from the carpenter shop.

The lumber, first checked to verify its suitability as a fuel in food processing and to ensure all metals have been removed, is fed through INEEL's wood chipper (below) and reduced to smaller pieces. The wood is then transported to Basic American Foods.

The project currently sends about 280 cubic yards of scrap wood each week to the company, where it is used to offset plant fuel usage. The recycling reduces the cost of processing the waste material at the INEEL landfill and also saves landfill space.

Solar cars to race Route 66 in July

In what could be called a "blast from the past," the American Solar Challenge, a solar-powered car race to be held July 15-25, 2001, will follow historic Route 66, where many traveling Americans developed their passion for the open road and George Maharis drove his Corvette in the television series of the same name. But these cars will make the trip between Chicago, Ill., and the Los Angeles, Calif., area without using a single drop of fuel.

Sponsors of the race include the Department of Energy (DOE); its National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo.; and Terion in Melbourne, Fla. DOE will provide $400,000 to race organizer New Resources Group to support the planning, management, and conduct of the race.

The American Solar Challenge will be the longest solar car race in the world at 2,300 miles. Unlike past U.S. solar car races, the challenge will feature as many as 60 solar-powered cars built by a variety of organizations—university teams, companies, clubs, and individuals worldwide.

The mission of the race is to advance renewable energy and electric vehicle technologies, promote educational and engineering excellence, encourage environmental consciousness, and teach teamwork. The challenge also provides hands-on experience for engineering students, enabling them to build their technical skills for the new century's marketplace.

The solar cars are scheduled to stop at 13 checkpoints along the route, including Springfield, Ill; Rolla and Neosho, Mo.; Tulsa, Edmond, and Sayre, Okla.; Amarillo, Texas; Tucumcari, Albuquerque, and Gallup, N.M.; Flagstaff and Kingman, Ariz.; and Barstow, Calif. A list of participating teams, race regulations, and route information are available at **http://www.formulasun.org**. ❖

Atlanta office takes energy efficient path

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Atlanta Regional Office, the southeastern field representative of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, decided to "talk the talk" and "walk the walk" when it came to outfitting the new offices it moved into last May. Working in partnership with the Sunbelt Region Office of the General Services Administration, the improvements were made in the Richard B. Russell Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse under a Federal Energy Management Program Super Energy Saving Performance Contract.

Under the concept "Taking a Green Path to Energy Efficiency," as many energy-efficient technologies and products as feasible were incorporated into the office space. The result is a 10,000-square-foot office featuring carpeting manufactured from recycled materials; recycled wooden doors; recycled acoustical ceiling tile; ceramic floor tiles manufactured from recycled materials; Energy Star appliances such as personal computers, copiers, and fax machines; and environmentally recyclable "state of the art" office furniture.

Individual offices are equipped with remote control transmitters that allow the occupant to adjust lighting levels according to the daylight received.

Throughout the office suite, photocell-controlled perimeter lighting provides for "daylight harvesting." Individual workstations feature energy-saving fluorescent task lighting, desktop motion sensor lighting and electrical outlet controls. All overhead fluorescent lighting comes from recycled fixtures in which electronic ballasts replaced magnetic ballasts. Some of these fixtures can be dimmed, and all have efficient reflectors. In the fixtures, four T12 fluorescent lamps were replaced with two T8 lamps. Occupancy lighting sensors are used in all common areas such as the library and the mail and file rooms. The annual energy savings from all the technologies and products is estimated to be 96,000 kilowatt-hours.

Jim Powell, Director, Atlanta Regional Office, has been planning for years to house DOE's regional operations in space that can serve as an example for all the public and private organizations which the office assists in its nine-state region. Finding space available in a major Federal building that had just received major energy upgrades, then using "green" design standards to further improve the offices, has resulted in a truly sustainable environment. ❖

Infrastructure provides secure data exchange

A Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) provides the policies, standards, technology, and software necessary to ensure that information can be exchanged more securely. The PKI Pilot Program of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Cyber Security has created an infrastructure that will help the Department meet the demands of electronic government and the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, which calls for the Federal Government to conduct business electronically.

At the Department, the Public Key Infrastructure supports the digital signatures used in secure e-mail to assure electronic funds transfer, software distribution, data integrity, and to verify the origin of data. "Public Key Infrastructure will serve as a core component of the DOE security architecture," says Sharon Shank, PKI Program Manager. "It will provide the necessary elements of authenticity, integrity, and privacy for DOE data and information systems."

The Department's PKI solution is built on a certificate-based public key cryptographic system. Certificates are digital identifications, or keys, issued by third-party certificate authorities. Certificates verify and certify that senders are actually who they claim to be and allow the recipient of the message to send a secure reply.

In 1996, DOE Headquarters and several Department laboratories—including Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, Pacific Northwest, and Sandia National Laboratories—formed a community of interest to evaluate technology standards and launch a PKI pilot program. The community of interest soon expanded to include the Idaho, Oak Ridge, and Savannah River Operations Offices; Argonne and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories; Pantex Plant; and the Yucca Mountain Site Office.

With policy and guidelines established by DOE Headquarters, a Departmentwide process was developed that permits common access to digital certificates throughout the community of interest. Currently, seven operational cross-certified sites support a user population of approximately 15,000 individuals.

The PKI Program hosts an annual workshop to present information critical to deploying and maintaining the infrastructure, provide ongoing training for users, and inform participants about activities within the Department and throughout the Federal Government. For more information on the program, contact Sharon Shank, 301-903-3047, sharon.shank@hq.doe.gov. ❖

People IN ENERGY

Maureen A. Hunemuller is the new Manager, Defense Programs (DP) Operations, National Nuclear Security Administration, at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site. She is the senior DOE line manager responsible for the accomplishment of the DP tritium mission. Most recently, Hunemuller was with the DP Chief Operating Officer's staff, specializing in the areas of nuclear safety and operations. From 1996 to 1999, she was Deputy Assistant Manager for the High Level Waste Program at DOE's Hanford Site.

Robert M. Loesch, Office of Worker Protection Policy and Programs, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, recently received the Founders Award at the 46th Annual Bioassay, Analytical, and Environmental Radiochemistry Conference. The award recognizes his leadership and scientific contributions to the Department of Energy Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP). Under Loesch's management, DOELAP has enacted the world's first and only radiobioassay accreditation program for quality assurance in determining worker internal exposures to radiation.

William Horak has been appointed Chair of the Energy Sciences and Technology Department at the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). Horak held the position in an acting capacity since March 2000 when the new department was created to combine energy research areas at the laboratory into one organization. Since joining BNL in 1979, Horak has implemented and managed numerous programs in nuclear safety, international safeguards, and energy-system development.

Timothy J. Meeks has been named Chief of the new Engineering and Administrative Support Office at the Department of Energy's Western Area Power Administration. Most recently, Meeks served as Assistant Administrator for the Department's Power Marketing Liaison Office in Washington, D.C., representing the Southeastern, Southwestern, and Western Area Power Administrations. Meeks will transfer to Western's Corporate Service Office in Lakewood, Colo., this month.

John F. Cooke has been named Director of the Solid State Division at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), a position he previously held in an acting capacity. Cooke joined the division in 1966 following a post-doctoral assignment at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment in Harwell, England. His research at ORNL has focused primarily on theoretical studies of magnetism and electron correlation effects in solids.

Susan Seestrom has been named Director, Physics Division, at the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory. Previously, Seestrom served as Deputy Group Leader, Neutron Science and Technology Group, and shared responsibilities as Acting Physics Division Deputy Director.

Alex Zunger, a physicist and research fellow at the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, has been named recipient of the Rahman Award by the American Physical Society (APS). The award is bestowed annually for outstanding achievement in computational physics research. Zunger was recognized for his "pioneering work on the computational basis for first-principles electronic structure theory of solids." The award will be formally presented at the APS annual meeting in June 2001.

Gloria Wright, a secretary in the Environmental Management Division at the Department of Energy's Oakland Operations Office, is the winner of the San Francisco Bay Area Annual Federal Employee of the Year Award in the clerical and administrative support category. The award honors Federal employees who have demonstrated a high caliber of performance, dedication, and meaningful contributions to their agency or community. Wright supports a technical staff of over 20 people including off-site staff in Southern California and New York.

Carol H. Scott has been named Director of the Operational Safety Services Division at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). An ORNL employee since 1978, Scott previously was with ORNL's Robotic and Process Systems Division.

Four scientists at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have been elected Fellows of the American Physical Society: **Robert Cauble** and **Ann Orel Woodin**, Physics and Advanced Technologies Directorate, and **James Hammer** and **Joseph Nilsen**, Defense and Nuclear Technologies Directorate.

Researchers **Francis "Rip" Perkins** and **Charles Neumeyer** of the Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) have been named PPPL Distinguished Research and Engineering Fellows, respectively. Perkins was recognized for his contribution in many critical areas of plasma physics research. Neumeyer was cited for contributions and technical leadership of the engineering effort to design power systems for several magnetic fusion devices at the laboratory. ❖

Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

January 2001

Headquarters

Chief Financial Officer - Michael G. Bloomer (30 years), Thomas G. Knight (30). **EIA** - Thomas S. Murphy (30), Charles A. Allen (25). **Energy Efficiency** - Darrell A. Beschen, Jr. (30), Marshall J. Reed (25). **Envir., Safety & Health** - Barbara G. Brooks (30), Jacqueline D. Rogers (25).

FERC - Charles T. Raabe (45), Thomas J. Brownfield, Jr. (30), Stanley L. Emery (30), Rodney C. Manganello (30), Alton B. Carter (25), Miriam B. Clayton (25), William H. Duke (25), Samuel Higginbottom, Jr. (25), George A. Kelley (25), James M. Krug (25).

Fossil Energy - Edward Schmetz (35), David C. Dahlin (25). **General Counsel** - Lawrence A. Gollomp (35), Richard L. Farman (25). **Inspector General** - Janice L. Long (25). **Management & Administration** - David T. Carr (35), Alfred L. Beer (30), Geraldine M. Bullock (30), Pamela J. Jeckell (30), John N. Mitchell (30), Dennis J. Roth (30), John E. Vetter (30), Deirdre B. Campos (25), Francis G. Porcheddu (25).

NNSA - Robert A. Jones (25). **Nuclear Energy** - Frank M. Newman, Jr. (30). **Radioactive Waste** - Max L. Powell (30), Kathleen M. Clemensen (25). **Science** - Gerald J. Peters (35), Nancy M. White (35), Walter L. Warnick (30), David P. Goodwin (25). **Security & Emergency Operations** - Howard M. Landon (25).

Field

Albuquerque/NNSA - William R. Dubuque (30), Rosemary O. Gergen (30). **Bonneville Power** - Dean M. Landers (40), Michael P. Adams (35), Dennis E. Brown (35), Richard C. North (35), Andrew J. Gabaldon (30), Louis P. Lenczowski (30), Edna M. Mitzel (30), Suzanne Smith (30), Sharon R. Zenner (30), Rodger W. Allen (25), Rodney E. Boling (25), Ordway E. Evans (25), Monica E. Wardwell (25). **Chicago** - Lawrence E. Hinchliffe (35), Merrill Heit (25), Terri S. Morgan (25).

Idaho - Glenn S. Waugh (30). **NETL** - K. H. Frohne (35), James P. Knoer (30), Richard B. Loomis (30), Carroll E. Utt (30), Karl H. Warnick (30), Thomas D. Brown (25), Daniel J. Fauth (25), David M. Hyman (25), Ronald J. Lynn (25). **Oak Ridge** - Robert G. Atkin (35), Thomas H. Youngblood (25). **Richland** - Kathleen A. Beecher (30), Mark L. Ramsay (25), Robert Southworth (25). **Rocky Flats** - Armando M. Lopez (25).

Savannah River - John D. Lybrand (30), Donald E. Scott (30), Steven E. Baker (25), Nick R. Delaplane (25), Howard B. Gnann (25), Josephine M. Stegall (25), Edward T. Vought (25). **Southwestern Power** - James K. McDonald (25). **Strategic Pet. Reserve** - Ray M. Paternostro (30), J. Madison Drake (25), William C. Neubauer, Jr. (25). **Western Area Power** - Ruth A. Koenig (35), Alan M. Mertens (35), James P. Harrington (30), Lyle K. Hargett (25), Howard K. Hirahara (25), Frieda J. Mauthe (25).

RETIREMENTS

December 2000

Headquarters

Energy Efficiency - Joan J. Cazeaux (15 years), Allie C. Mansker (36), Patricia A. O'Brien (36), Anthony P. Pontello (39). **Fossil Energy** - Walter H. Delaplane, Jr. (31), John W. Glynn (31), Carol A. Hebrance (38), Mark D. Milliken (21), William E. Moore (39), Linda G. Simons (36), Jerzy J. Stosur (25), Andrew Vitali (12), V. Darlene Wolfe-Thomas (38).

General Counsel - Cynthia A. Ford (32), Edward P. Levy (34). **International Affairs** - Robert R. Copaken (30), Henry P. Santiago (40). **Inspector General** - Judith A. Fuerstenberg (33), Terence C. Richardson (31). **Intelligence** - Loretta Y. Lanier (33), Grant M. Richardson (33). **Management & Administration** - Marian L. Dunn (35), Joyce P. Gray (30), Ronald A. Mordini (41).

NNSA - David M. Barr (35), Roger L. Dintaman (32), Jane W. Gartner (38), Edward G. Lazur (34), Melvin P. Leifer (30), Elizabeth G. McLaughlin (27), Leonard W. Myers (27), Patricia A. Roderick (35), John L. Rich (26), Thomas M. Shea (33). **Nuclear Energy** - Marilyn B. Mills (30), Richard A. Mehl (29). **Radioactive Waste** - Betty L. Crawford (11), Charles R. Fox (16), Lauretta P. M. Rost (20), Sandra L. Rouse (34).

Science - Patrick A. Crowley (30), Leota S. Kane (34), Patricia A. Thomas (21). **Security & Emergency Operations** - Sharon J. Baker (34), Edward B. Barnes (22), David K. Berkau (39), Ronald E. Crouch (33), Beverley A. Foltz (26), Peter J. Grahn, Jr. (28), Charles L. Guyker (29), Nancy H. Holmes (40), David A. Jones (31), Evelyn Marshall-Wood (32), Douglas R. Noble (37), Thomas M. Rowlett (25), Barbara A. Tierney (36), Nancy W. Tomford (33).

Field

Albuquerque/NNSA - Audley C. Babb II (24), William W. Bankey (39), Robert E. Burton (25), Jake J. Chavez (39), Ronald L. Christensen (28), Charles P. Demos (29), Elizabeth M. Guerra (33), Robert H. Hatchell (33), James G. Hoyal, Jr. (32), Ben E. McCarty (34), Armand McMillan (23), Dora S. Medina (51), Raymond C. Meis, Jr. (23), William C. Meyers (32), Jose A. Mora (30), Mary A. Mosley (24), Preston L. Parker (29), Thomas W. Patt (32), Robert D. Pessetto (29), Maria C. Salinas (20), Mary Ann D. Sanchez (26), Troy L. Sharp (23), James F. Stephens (11), Ellis L. Sykes (34), Claud J. Tillman (30), Loren H. Tucker (31), Thomas H. Worthington (28), Stanley V. Wurster (34).

Albany Research Center - Bert R. Staples (37). **Chicago** - Robert L. San Martin (24). **NETL** - John L. Capets (29), Harold F. Chambers (41), Thomas A. Link (28), Dorothy D. Mizikar (25), Carolina B. Stuncard (13), Edward C. Zagorski (41). **Nevada/NNSA** - Robert H. Ramstad (34).

Oak Ridge - George W. Benedict (31), James C. Bennett (28), James S. Campbell (33), Wilson C. Carnes, Jr. (35), Robert T. East (28), Sylvia G. Galde (34), Saundria J. Leifheit (31), Mary Jo Massengill (32), Roy E. Ross (33), John T. Sweeney (24), William A. Truex (33), James H. Ware (37).

Richland - Robert E. Bley (20), Daniel D. Button (6), Ronald E. Gerton (32), Allen M. Hanley (19), Waldemar F. Hendrickson (29), Robert G. Holt (20), Marcia N. Lingle (26), Charles B. Loftis (20), James E. Mecca (16), John L. Pfeiffer (15), Scott K. Potter (38), Robert K. Stewart (37), Harold J. Wacek (15), William A. White (37), Donald D. Wodrich (7).

Rocky Flats - Alfred E. Bell (25), John L. Posluszny (39), Mary A. Tinney (27). **Southwestern Power** - Donald K. Britt (18), Sharren S. Ripley (30). **Strategic Petroleum Reserve** - Lawrence A. Boston (10), David W. Brine (30), Anthony J. Sanchez (38). **Western Area Power** - Carol A. Plummer (24). ❖

January 2001

AROUND DOE

Grand Junction transfer promotes local economy

Forty-six acres of land and office buildings will be transferred from the Department of Energy's Grand Junction Office site in Mesa County, Colorado to the Riverview Technology Corporation, a community-based, nonprofit economic development corporation. The site was identified to be transferred out of Federal ownership as part of the goal to reduce overhead across the Department complex. The transfer will be completed by February 2001.

"This is a win-win situation for the Department of Energy and Mesa County," said Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson. "The Department will save nearly $1 million annually in landlord costs, and the Riverview Technology Corporation will have the land and office space it needs to further local economic development in Mesa County."

In January 1998, the City of Grand Junction and Mesa County formed an 11-member commission to work with the Department to develop plans for future use of the 54-acre site and the retention of workforce capabilities. As part of those plans, the Riverview Technology Corporation agreed to lease back office space to the Department's Grand Junction Office so office functions could continue uninterrupted. The U.S. Army plans to purchase the remaining eight acres of land this year.

Savannah River wins best practices award

The Department of Energy's Savannah River Operations Office has received the Fiscal Year 2000 Human Resources/Equal Employment Opportunity Best Practices Award from the Federal Personnel Management Institute (FPMI). The annual award is presented by FPMI to a single Federal organization that has "demonstrated outstanding innovation and creativity in providing internal HR, EEO, and related services."

Savannah River was recognized for developing and implementing its Automated Performance Management Process. The process, using desktop computers, enables employees and supervisors to establish and review a performance plan, validate an employee's training status, and process performance appraisals.

The process has widespread applicability. The Director of Civilian Personnel, U.S. Army, Fort Bragg recently contacted Savannah River for assistance in implementing the system.

Small business efforts of Fluor Fernald honored

Fluor Fernald, Inc., management contractor for cleanup of the Department of Energy's Fernald Environmental Management Project near Cincinnati, Ohio, was recently named "Corporation of the Year" by the Dayton Minority Supplier Development Council. The award recognizes Fluor Fernald for its outstanding implementation of the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Program at the Fernald site.

Since establishing an Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization in 1994, Fluor Fernald has exceeded its goals every fiscal year, awarding more than $100 million to small disadvantaged businesses. "Helping small businesses succeed is the right thing to do, not only for this project but for the economic impact that it has on our entire community," said Fluor Fernald President and CEO John Bradburne. "Increasing procurement opportunities is a priority."

Fluor Fernald has been recognized in the past for its Mentor Protégé Program and as the outstanding agency by the Minority Business Opportunity Committee, designated corporation of the year by both the Cincinnati and Dayton Minority Supplier Development Councils, and rated "excellent" by the U.S. Small Business Administration for its subcontracting program. ❖

United States
Department of Energy (PA-40)
Washington, DC 20585

Official Business